THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) The amount lying in the Unclaimed Deposit Account as on 31.03.2004 was Rs. 942.95 crore.

(b) The reasons responsible for Unclaimed Deposits are:

- Non-availability of the latest address of the employees.
- Non-submission of claims for transfer/final settlement.
- Multiple accounts of a member.
- Desire to earn more returns as Provident Fund accumulations earn better interest compared to the market.
- Outstanding balance in the Provident Fund account cannot be attached by any authority or decree of a court.
- The interest earned on it is exempt from the Income Tax.

(c) Advertisements were issued in major daily news papers and all Regional Provident Fund Commissioners were directed to launch a drive for finding out the latest addresses of the claimants from their establishment and to settle their claims. Consequent upon the special drive Rs. 86.60 crore has been paid out of the Unclaimed Deposit Account during the year 2004-05.

Unlicensed employment agencies

2590. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in four metro cities of India, members of unlicensed agency houses are operating as employment agencies;

(b) whether it is a fact that agency houses are luring teenage girls from poor families and throwing them to all sorts of exploitations; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal to regulate these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such complaints have been reported to government.

(c) The problem related to Private Placement Agencies varies from state to state. Ministry of Labour & Employment have issued guidelines to the States/UTs to consider regulation of agencies as per local needs.

Creation of employment Opportunities

†2591. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any additional scheme for creation of additional employment opportunities after mid-term review of Tenth Five Year Plan in order to achieve the target of employment generation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Creation of employment opportunities in the country is being attempted through the growth of the economy as well as through special employment generation programmes. Existing special employment generation programmes being implemented by the Government include Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), Sampoorana Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SJSRY), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) etc. Ministry of Labour & Employment have not formulated any new scheme for additional employment opportunities after mid-term review of the 10th Five year Plan.

Women deserted by NRI husbands

2592. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are many women deserted by their NRI husbands in several Indian States;

(b) whether Government are also aware that their spouses have obtained *ex-parte* divorce in the US and other countries without informing them;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.